

good if it cannot be more strongly stated than this reformer states it. Men of birth but quite ordinary ability, he complains, are found in great public offices, "and nothing short of a change in your political constitution can prevent this sort of thing." This is not argument, it is simply preaching; and when the preacher has left the pulpit we have quite as much right to reply, "Yes, we recognise the evils—greater in theory than in practice, but still great—of snobbery and nepotism: we agree with you in deploring them; but 'nothing in the nature of a change in our political constitution can prevent this sort of thing.'" If a nation is affected with these weaknesses of character under one form of constitution it will be affected with them under another. They come by nature and inheritance; they are in the blood, and the blood carries their natural antidote. Do all you can by any method old or new to increase the red corpuscles, to foster the bright pride and sense of honour which are so strong in youth; but attempt no violence, no amputations, no moulding in irons; expect no sudden radical and permanent changes in an organism of long growth; for "the counsels to which Time hath not been called Time will not ratify."

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